

IN THE CLAIMS

1-66 (canceled)

67. (withdrawn) A method for increasing hair volume by thickening and/or lengthening, comprising the steps of:
- providing one or a plurality of hair extensions comprising respective proximal ends having a respective connecting element;
- providing an adhesive tape and arranging, according to a predetermined arrangement, said proximal ends onto the adhesive face of a section of said adhesive tape so that the remainder of the adhesive tape may be folded on said section;
- enclosing a portion of hair to be thickened between said section and said remainder of folded adhesive tape, determining an area intended to receive said proximal ends; and
- activating connection means operating on said connecting elements of the hair extensions.
68. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 67, wherein said connecting elements comprises a thermoplastic material.
69. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 67, wherein said connection means are activated by application of energy.
70. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 69, wherein heat is applied.
71. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 69, wherein mechanical energy in the form of vibrations having a substantially ultrasonic frequency is applied.

72. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 69, wherein said energy is applied by means of a gripper applicator comprising a fixed element and a movable pressure element, substantially elongated, to apply a uniform pressure along the entire length of said tapes.
73. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 67, wherein said proximal ends are equidistant.
74. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 67, wherein said adhesive tape is transparent.
75. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 67, providing the removal of said adhesive tapes once the thermoplastic material has solidified.
76. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 67, wherein said remainder of adhesive tape is externally adhered to the hair to be thickened, with a respective adhesive face facing the head.
77. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 67, comprising a step of providing positioning means of said proximal ends at the designed adhesive face to adhere said proximal ends to said adhesive face in accordance with said positioning means.
78. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 77, wherein said positioning means comprises a plurality of position indicators associated to said adhesive tape.

79. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 78, wherein the positioning means comprises a plurality of rows of position indicators, each having indicators of different shapes with regard to the dimensions of the respective designed connecting elements.
80. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 79, wherein, on each row, there is proposed a density of application of the hair extensions that varies according to the size of the respective designed connecting element.
81. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 80, wherein, by decreasing the size of the connecting element the pitch between position indicators adjacent on the same row will be reduced.
82. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 78, wherein the position indicators have a shape resembling that of the respective connecting elements so that with the adhesion of the connecting elements to the respective indicator the substantial parallelism of the hair extensions placed on the same adhesive tape is attained automatically.
83. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 78, wherein the position indicators are traced on the adhesive tape.
84. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 67, wherein the positioning means comprises a stencil with positioning traces located below the adhesive tape.
85. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 67, comprising the step of arranging a folding element with a pair of flaps united by a folding line, so that said adhesive tape section and the remainder adhere to a respective flap, and of enclosing a portion of the

hair to be thickened between said section and said remainder of folded adhesive tape singling out an area designed to receive said proximal ends, with the aid of said folding element, said folding element being intended to be removed from said portion of the hair.

86. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 67, wherein the face of the adhesive tape intended to come into contact with said connecting element is substantially creased and/or has a marked surface roughness.
87. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 86, wherein said faces have a surface roughness such as to make the adhesive tape and accordingly the applied connecting element opaque.
88. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 87, wherein said roughness is obtained according to one of four modes: by a suitable glazing; by a mechanical corrosion, implementable for example with a sanding; by a chemical corrosion, implementable for example with an acid bath in which the tape is immersed; or by an abrasion, implementable with abrasive pads rubbed on the tape face.
89. (withdrawn) The method according to 87, wherein said faces have a plurality of ribs and grooves of transversal dimensions similar to the diameter of an individual hair and of orientation parallel to that of the hairs of the hair extensions.
90. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 89, wherein said ribs and grooves are newly generated on the tape face by one of four modes: by a suitable glazing, by an extrusion implemented with a suitable mold, by chemical etching, implementable for example with an adapt silk-screen pad and a corrosive agent applied through the pad; and by a

mechanical removal of aligned strips of tape material with suitable abrasive means or surface etching means.

91. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 87 or 89, wherein said faces have a surface roughness such as to make the adhesive tape and accordingly the applied connecting element opaque and have a plurality of ribs and grooves of transversal dimensions similar to the diameter of an individual hair and of orientation parallel to that of the hairs of the hair extensions.
92. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 67, wherein the face of adhesive tape designed to come into contact with said connecting element is substantially covered with fluff.
93. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 92, wherein said fluff is deposited by flocking.
94. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 93, wherein said flocking is of electrostatic type.
95. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 93, wherein said fluff is held on the tape by the respective adhesive faces.
96. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 92, wherein said fluff is mixed to the adhesive of said adhesive faces.

97. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 67, wherein there are provided a plurality of hair extensions, positioned according to a predetermined arrangement, to allow their multiple application.
98. (withdrawn) A method for increasing hair volume by thickening and/or lengthening, comprising the steps of:
- providing one or a plurality of hair extensions having respective proximal ends provided with a respective connecting element;
- providing a first adhesive tape and adhering it to the hair to be thickened on an area intended to receive said proximal ends;
- providing a second adhesive tape, having an adhesive face, and adhering on said adhesive face the proximal ends of said hair extensions;
- adhering said adhesive face to the hair to be thickened at said first adhesive tape; and
- activating connection means operating on said connecting elements of the hair extensions.
99. (currently amended) An assembly for increasing hair volume by thickening and/or lengthening, comprising:
- one or a plurality of hair extensions having respective proximal ends provided with a respective connecting element; and
- an adhesive tape having a section with an adhesive face onto which ~~there are arranged~~ said proximal ends are arranged according to a predetermined arrangement, said adhesive tape comprising a remainder apt to be folded on said section completely covering it, the section and the remainder being separated by a fold line, the adhesive face of said section being apt to be reversibly applied on ~~the~~ receiving hair, the remainder having means for indicating the position of the connecting elements;

wherein the assembly further comprises a pair of recesses obtained either onto the tape at side edges thereof in a folded configuration or onto creasings connecting the remainder and a flap to the section, said recesses being positioned at said means for indicating the connecting elements to act as guide for a connection means.

100. (previously presented) The assembly according to one of the claims 99, wherein said connecting elements are made of a thermoplastic material.
101. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 99, wherein said adhesive tapes are transparent.
102. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 100, wherein the thermoplastic material comprises polyester and/or polyamide and/or polyurethanes.
103. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 99, wherein the adhesive faces have an adhesive of a non-permanent and reversible type, operated by pressure, with an adhesive force on the respective tape greater than that produced on the thermoplastic material.
104. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 99, wherein at least the adhesive tapes are resistant to heat.
105. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 99, wherein the connecting elements are substantially equidistant and placed at the center of the respective section of adhesive tape, the extensions being aligned in parallel to each other, so that the hairs of adjacent extensions do not get knotted to each other.

106. (canceled)
107. (currently amended) The assembly according to claim 99, wherein, ~~oppositely with respect to the remainder, the adhesive tape comprises a~~ the flap is opposite with respect to the remainder, it also is adhesive, and is apt to be connected to the remainder folded onto the section, substantially in substantially a billfold configuration.
108. (canceled)
109. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 99, comprising a support tape, made of a material easily detachable from the adhesive tape, arranged to protect the adhesive faces and the connecting elements.
110. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 99, wherein the adhesive face receiving the proximal ends of the hair extensions has position indicators.
111. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 99, wherein the face of the adhesive tape designed to come into contact with said connecting element is substantially creased and/or has a marked surface roughness.
112. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 111, wherein said faces have a surface roughness such as to make the adhesive tape and accordingly the applied connecting element opaque.

113. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 112, wherein said roughness is obtained according to one of four modes: by a suitable glazing; by a mechanical corrosion, implementable for example with a sanding; by a chemical corrosion, implementable for example with an acid bath in which the tape is immersed; or by an abrasion, implementable with abrasive means rubbed on the tape face.
114. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 111, wherein said faces have a plurality of ribs and grooves of transversal dimensions similar to the diameter of an individual hair and of orientation parallel to that of the hairs of the hair extensions.
115. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 114, wherein said ribs and grooves are newly generated onto the tape face by one of four modes: by a suitable glazing, by an extrusion implemented with a suitable mold, by chemical etching, implementable for example with an adapt silk-screen pad and a corrosive agent applied through the pad; and by a mechanical removal of aligned strips of tape material with suitable abrasive means or surface etching means.
116. (currently amended) The assembly according to claim ~~112 or 114~~ 99, wherein said faces have a surface roughness such as to make the adhesive tape, and accordingly the applied connecting element, opaque and have a plurality of ribs and grooves of transversal dimensions similar to the diameter of an individual hair and of orientation parallel to that of the hairs of the hair extensions.
117. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 99, wherein the face of adhesive tape designed to come into contact with said connecting element is substantially covered with fluff.

- 118. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 117, wherein said fluff is deposited by flocking.
- 119. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 118, wherein said flocking is of electrostatic type.
- 120. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 117, wherein said fluff is held on the tape by the respective adhesive faces.
- 121. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 117, wherein said fluff is mixed to the adhesive of said adhesive faces.
- 122. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 99, wherein the connecting elements are made of reactive hot-melt glue that is hardening in the presence of moisture.
- 123. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 99, wherein the connecting elements are made of two-pack adhesive.
- 124. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 99, wherein there are provided a plurality of hair extensions, positioned according to a predetermined arrangement, to allow their multiple application.

125. (currently amended) An assembly for increasing hair volume by thickening and/or lengthening, comprising:
- one or a plurality of hair extensions having respective proximal ends provided with a respective connecting element;
- a first adhesive tape apt to be reversibly applied on the hair to be thickened; and
- a second adhesive tape, with an adhesive face apt to receive said connecting elements; wherein said second adhesive tape has preferential tearing lines formed in said second tape such as to configure for removal complementary portions of the tape, each complementary portion comprising one or more proximal ends of hair extensions.
126. (canceled)
127. (currently amended) The assembly according to claim ~~126~~ 125, wherein the preferential tearing line follows a substantially fret- or coil-shaped path so that complementary portions of the tape receive the proximal ends and the respective connecting elements of alternate hair extensions.
128. (currently amended) The assembly according to claim 127, wherein, to facilitate the separation of the hair extensions, the preferential tearing line has a slit ~~at the~~ loops facing the hair extensions and connecting sections at the loops facing oppositely to the hair extensions.
129. (currently amended) The assembly according to claim ~~126~~ 125, comprising a plurality of preferential tearing or mere separation lines crossing edge-to-edge the tape separating each one or more connecting elements.

130. (previously presented) An assembly to claim 129, wherein each preferential tearing line comprises a reference indent to facilitate the assembling of the individual portions.
131. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 129, wherein each preferential tearing line comprises a visual position reference.
132. (currently amended) The assembly according to claim ~~126~~ 125, wherein the line or the preferential tearing lines separate a discrete number of connecting elements, that is of hair extensions that can thus be mixed in sets.